



## Economic Overview

# Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026

**DSM USA**

The Greater Des Moines Partnership - <https://www.dsmpartnership.com/>

Demographic Profile.....	3
Employment Trends .....	5
Unemployment Rate .....	5
Wage Trends .....	6
Cost of Living Index .....	7
Industry Snapshot .....	8
Occupation Snapshot .....	10
Industry Clusters .....	12
Education Levels.....	13
Gross Domestic Product .....	14
Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 Regional Map .....	16
Region Definition.....	17
FAQ.....	18

# Demographic Profile

The population in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 was 868,623 per American Community Survey data for 2019-2023.

The region has a civilian labor force of 473,790 with a participation rate of 69.9%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026, 39.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is \$82,546 and the median house value is \$238,421.

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026	Iowa	USA	Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026	Iowa	USA
<b>Demographics</b>						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	868,623	3,195,937	332,387,540
Male	50.0%	50.1%	49.5%	434,027	1,601,453	164,545,087
Female	50.0%	49.9%	50.5%	434,596	1,594,484	167,842,453
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	37.4	38.6	38.7
Under 18 Years	24.6%	23.0%	22.2%	213,452	736,579	73,645,238
18 to 24 Years	8.6%	10.0%	9.1%	74,713	318,882	30,307,641
25 to 34 Years	13.7%	12.4%	13.7%	119,332	395,871	45,497,632
35 to 44 Years	13.9%	12.6%	13.1%	121,150	402,851	43,492,887
45 to 54 Years	12.0%	11.3%	12.3%	104,267	362,625	40,847,713
55 to 64 Years	12.0%	12.8%	12.8%	104,150	410,048	42,626,382
65 to 74 Years	9.0%	10.4%	10.0%	78,545	331,863	33,293,127
75 Years and Over	6.1%	7.4%	6.8%	53,014	237,218	22,676,920
Race: White	82.3%	85.6%	63.4%	715,235	2,735,263	210,875,446
Race: Black or African American	5.0%	3.9%	12.4%	43,035	123,234	41,070,890
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.3%	0.9%	3,693	10,998	2,924,996
Race: Asian	3.8%	2.4%	5.8%	33,236	78,267	19,352,659
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	243	4,396	629,292
Race: Some Other Race	2.6%	2.0%	6.6%	22,312	64,571	21,940,536
Race: Two or More Races	5.9%	5.6%	10.7%	50,869	179,208	35,593,721
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8.7%	7.0%	19.0%	75,532	223,471	63,131,589
<b>Population Growth</b>						
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	902,534	3,241,488	340,110,988
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>4</sup>	1.2%	0.4%	0.7%	10,371	13,085	2,172,466
People per Square Mile <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	118.5	58.0	96.3
<b>Economic</b>						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	69.9%	66.5%	63.3%	473,790	1,691,052	168,567,852
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	88.5%	87.3%	83.0%	303,946	1,012,147	107,055,165
Work from Home	13.4%	10.4%	13.5%	59,930	166,940	21,267,373
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	1,449	3,139	1,287,774
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.2%	4.1%	4.2%	22,150	77,928	8,410,268
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	83.6%	82.3%	77.0%	18,511	64,124	6,478,181
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$82,546	\$73,147	\$78,538
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$43,306	\$39,728	\$43,289

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026	Iowa	USA	Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026	Iowa	USA
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	20.7	19.8	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.4%	0.7%	3.5%	1,834	11,860	5,528,841
<b>Educational Attainment, Age 25-64</b>						
No High School Diploma	6.9%	6.6%	10.0%	30,967	103,330	17,176,172
High School Graduate	24.3%	26.9%	25.0%	108,983	422,972	43,057,491
Some College, No Degree	18.4%	20.0%	19.3%	82,505	313,631	33,315,654
Associate's Degree	11.5%	13.5%	9.2%	51,433	211,904	15,894,085
Bachelor's Degree	26.8%	22.5%	22.8%	120,239	353,692	39,256,774
Postgraduate Degree	12.2%	10.6%	13.8%	54,772	165,866	23,764,438
<b>Housing</b>						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	374,078	1,427,175	142,332,876
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2,5</sup>	—	—	—	\$238,421	\$195,900	\$303,400
Homeowner Vacancy	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	1,845	8,621	850,724
Rental Vacancy	5.5%	5.7%	5.5%	6,125	22,918	2,605,688
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	29.9%	28.5%	35.0%	104,206	371,145	44,590,828
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	70.1%	71.5%	65.0%	244,874	932,618	82,892,037
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.1%	5.4%	8.3%	17,674	70,962	10,602,826
<b>Social</b>						
Poverty Level (of all people)	9.3%	11.0%	12.4%	78,558	340,362	40,390,045
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	9.3%	9.2%	11.8%	32,388	119,631	15,004,950
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	11,026	40,406	4,405,676
Disconnected Youth <sup>3</sup>	2.7%	2.4%	2.4%	1,221	4,292	420,352
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	28.1%	28.9%	34.0%	57,656	204,524	23,701,745
Uninsured	4.5%	4.9%	8.6%	38,735	153,063	28,000,876
With a Disability, Age 18-64	9.6%	10.4%	10.7%	49,538	194,367	21,269,700
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	58.1%	53.7%	47.0%	28,800	104,465	10,001,264
Foreign Born	8.2%	5.7%	13.9%	70,970	182,594	46,108,901
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	5.1%	3.6%	8.4%	41,830	108,424	26,299,012

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2019-2023, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

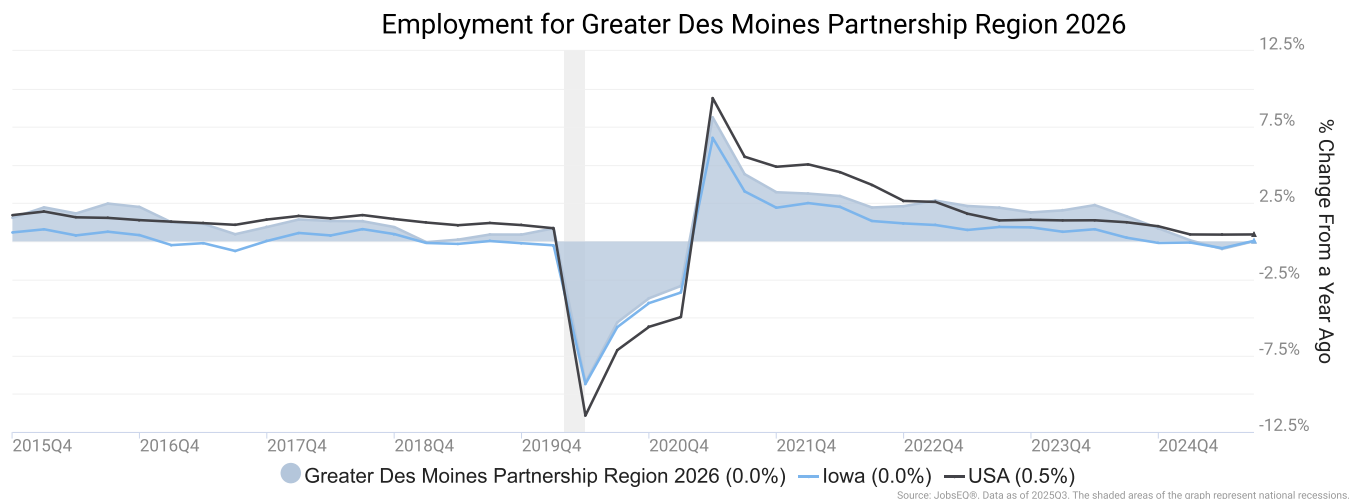
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2024, annual average growth rate since 2014.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

# Employment Trends

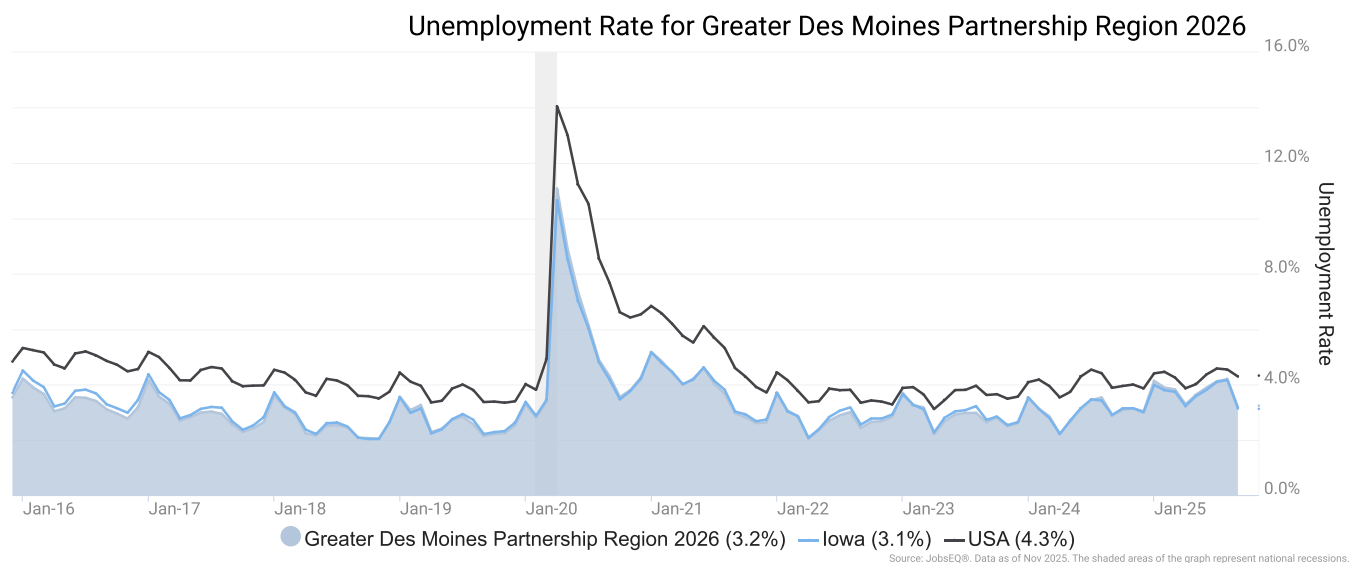
As of 2025Q3, total employment for the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 was 498,647 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2025Q3, employment increased 0.0% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q3.

# Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 was 3.2% as of November 2025. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.3%. One year earlier, in November 2024, the unemployment rate in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 was 3.1%.

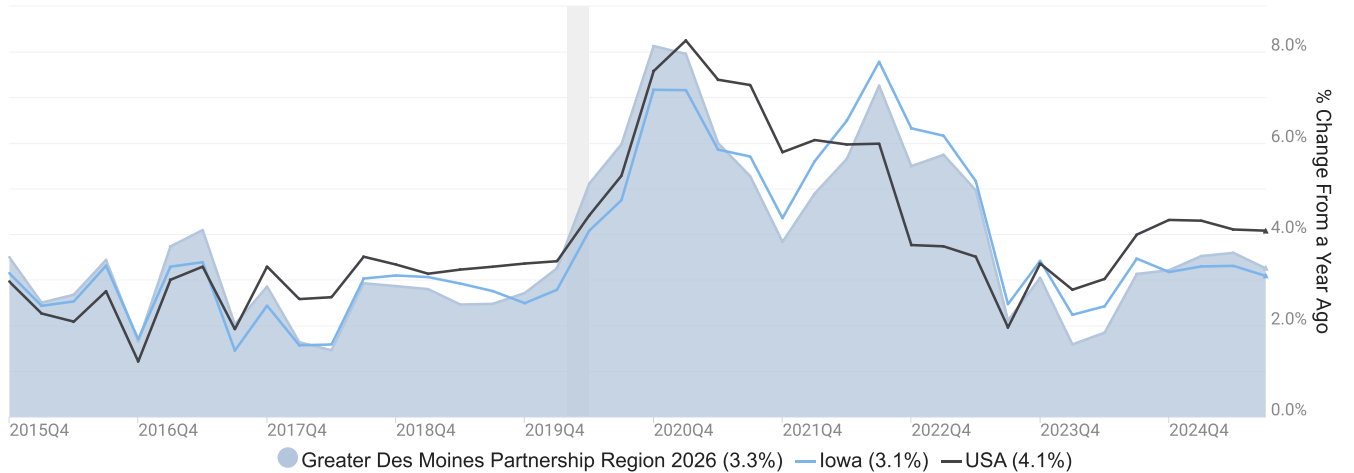


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through November 2025.

# Wage Trends

The average worker in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 earned annual wages of \$69,807 as of 2025Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.3% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$75,653 in the nation as of 2025Q3.

Average Annual Wages for Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q3.

# Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 15.9% lower in Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 than the U.S. average.

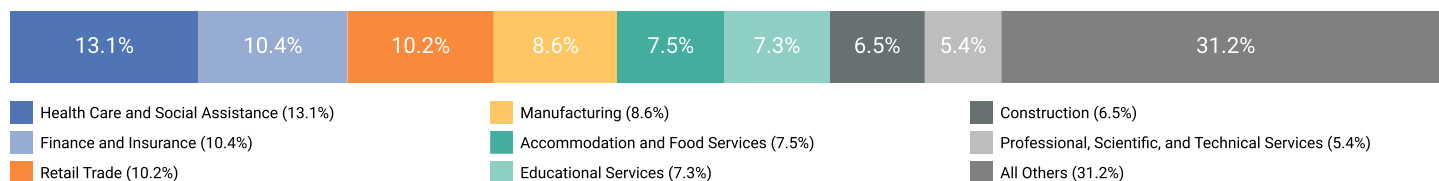
Cost of Living Information			
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026	\$69,807	84.1	\$82,993
Iowa	\$62,711	87.5	\$71,702
USA	\$75,653	100.0	\$75,653

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)  
Data as of 2025Q3  
Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2025Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

# Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 65,195 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Finance and Insurance (51,631 workers) and Retail Trade (50,764). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Finance and Insurance (LQ = 2.64), Management of Companies and Enterprises (1.47), and Wholesale Trade (1.20).

Total Workers for Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®  
Data as of 2025Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q3.

Sectors in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 with the highest average wages per worker are Finance and Insurance (\$123,927), Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$121,759), and Utilities (\$117,910). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+7,092 jobs), Transportation and Warehousing (+6,158), and Accommodation and Food Services (+5,798).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is projected to expand by 2,708 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Finance and Insurance with a +1.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+608 jobs), Finance and Insurance (+494), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+256).



### Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026, 2025Q3<sup>1</sup>

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	65,195	\$62,552	0.85	7,092	2.3%	7,065	3,223	3,235	608	0.9%
52	Finance and Insurance	51,631	\$123,927	2.64	-2,242	-0.8%	4,684	1,768	2,422	494	1.0%
44	Retail Trade	50,764	\$37,477	1.06	2,976	1.2%	6,890	3,113	3,711	66	0.1%
31	Manufacturing	42,651	\$76,843	1.10	812	0.4%	4,198	1,701	2,510	-13	0.0%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	37,166	\$25,771	0.86	5,798	3.5%	6,664	2,859	3,573	232	0.6%
61	Educational Services	36,519	\$52,241	0.90	3,435	2.0%	3,524	1,661	1,773	89	0.2%
23	Construction	32,526	\$78,131	1.09	4,336	2.9%	2,906	1,080	1,604	221	0.7%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26,866	\$100,379	0.75	2,172	1.7%	2,377	853	1,268	256	1.0%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	23,682	\$58,833	0.94	6,158	6.2%	2,620	1,116	1,394	110	0.5%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	23,156	\$56,059	0.77	92	0.1%	2,683	1,122	1,467	94	0.4%
92	Public Administration	22,479	\$75,365	0.95	2,794	2.7%	2,075	871	1,164	40	0.2%
42	Wholesale Trade	22,044	\$98,976	1.20	1,990	1.9%	2,254	883	1,268	103	0.5%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	19,753	\$47,804	0.93	623	0.6%	2,323	977	1,237	109	0.6%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	11,426	\$121,759	1.47	2,245	4.5%	1,003	381	554	69	0.6%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9,770	\$27,284	0.92	2,236	5.3%	1,503	597	806	99	1.0%
51	Information	7,196	\$98,689	0.77	-112	-0.3%	663	235	367	61	0.8%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7,135	\$73,252	1.20	70	0.2%	836	437	412	-13	-0.2%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,015	\$69,264	0.80	291	0.9%	716	319	350	47	0.7%
22	Utilities	1,264	\$117,910	0.48	91	1.5%	116	43	66	6	0.5%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	408	\$78,491	0.23	59	3.2%	39	14	23	2	0.6%
<b>Total - All Industries</b>		<b>498,647</b>	<b>\$69,807</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>40,916</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>56,059</b>	<b>23,757</b>	<b>29,593</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2025Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 60,420 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (46,062 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (43,824). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Business and Financial Operations Occupations (LQ = 1.15), Production Occupations (1.12), and Construction and Extraction Occupations (1.10).

Occupation groups in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$127,700), Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$104,200), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$101,900). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations to 7.9% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is expected to be Computer and Mathematical Occupations with a +1.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Management Occupations (+350 jobs) and Business and Financial Operations Occupations (+330). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (7,072 jobs) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (6,583).

**Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026, 2025Q3<sup>1</sup>**

SOC	Occupation	Current			5-Year History				1-Year Forecast					
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	60,420	\$51,700	1.07	1,756	3.0%	1,235	-2,349	-0.8%	6,510	3,097	3,486	-74	-0.1%
41-0000	Sales and Related	46,062	\$54,500	1.07	2,074	4.4%	2,769	1,351	0.6%	5,945	2,744	3,175	27	0.1%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	43,824	\$50,800	1.03	2,409	5.4%	1,529	6,612	3.3%	5,636	2,336	3,035	265	0.6%
11-0000	Management	40,231	\$127,700	1.03	636	1.6%	2,257	5,898	3.2%	3,511	1,220	1,941	350	0.9%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	37,960	\$33,800	0.92	2,273	5.9%	1,891	5,533	3.2%	7,295	3,133	3,939	223	0.6%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	37,504	\$89,100	1.15	893	2.3%	1,594	4,252	2.4%	3,249	1,154	1,765	330	0.9%
51-0000	Production	29,816	\$51,600	1.12	1,462	4.8%	481	-320	-0.2%	3,195	1,286	1,926	-17	-0.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	27,538	\$52,500	1.01	653	2.3%	846	2,660	2.1%	2,665	1,267	1,308	90	0.3%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	25,053	\$101,900	0.83	295	1.2%	4,595	2,916	2.5%	1,612	745	640	227	0.9%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	24,830	\$64,500	1.10	1,328	5.3%	339	2,420	2.1%	2,165	801	1,186	178	0.7%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	20,228	\$42,500	0.83	686	3.5%	741	2,869	3.1%	3,196	1,516	1,437	243	1.2%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	19,761	\$63,400	1.03	548	2.9%	966	1,764	1.9%	1,897	757	1,001	139	0.7%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	16,417	\$104,200	1.04	394	2.4%	1,101	1,625	2.1%	1,126	357	553	216	1.3%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	15,817	\$39,600	0.97	809	5.0%	446	936	1.2%	2,252	1,040	1,137	75	0.5%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	12,231	\$38,100	0.95	616	5.0%	416	1,225	2.1%	2,215	880	1,252	83	0.7%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	8,275	\$61,300	0.88	183	2.2%	722	664	1.7%	849	358	421	71	0.9%

## Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026, 2025Q3<sup>1</sup>

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	8,228	\$62,800	0.94	286	3.3%	456	587	1.5%	827	337	445	46	0.6%
33-0000	Protective Service	7,375	\$60,600	0.67	257	3.5%	265	534	1.5%	849	345	484	21	0.3%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	6,746	\$99,800	0.86	115	1.7%	507	730	2.3%	485	176	268	42	0.6%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,915	\$82,300	0.85	107	2.6%	335	630	3.6%	370	81	261	28	0.7%
23-0000	Legal	3,710	\$101,900	0.89	51	1.4%	145	160	0.9%	253	90	142	21	0.6%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	2,707	\$45,400	0.95	247	7.9%	24	220	1.7%	388	177	216	-4	-0.2%
<b>Total - All Occupations</b>		<b>498,647</b>	<b>\$65,500</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>18,079</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>23,659</b>	<b>40,916</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>56,531</b>	<b>23,896</b>	<b>30,015</b>	<b>2,620</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2025Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

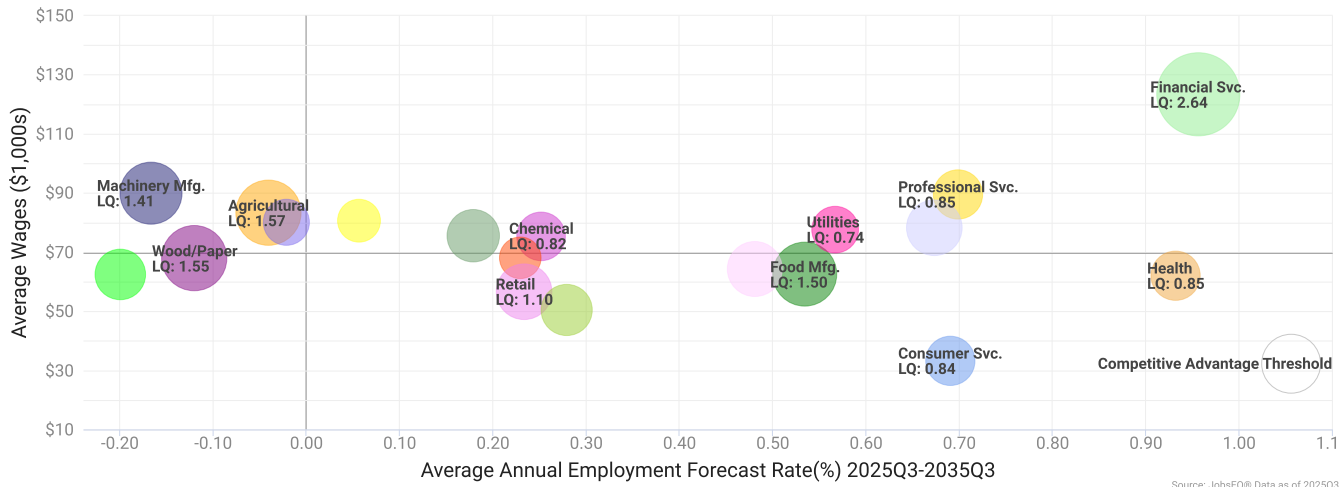
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2025Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2025 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 with the highest relative concentration is Financial Svc. with a location quotient of 2.64. This cluster employs 51,647 workers in the region with an average wage of \$123,284. Employment in the Financial Svc. cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.0% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 as of 2025Q3

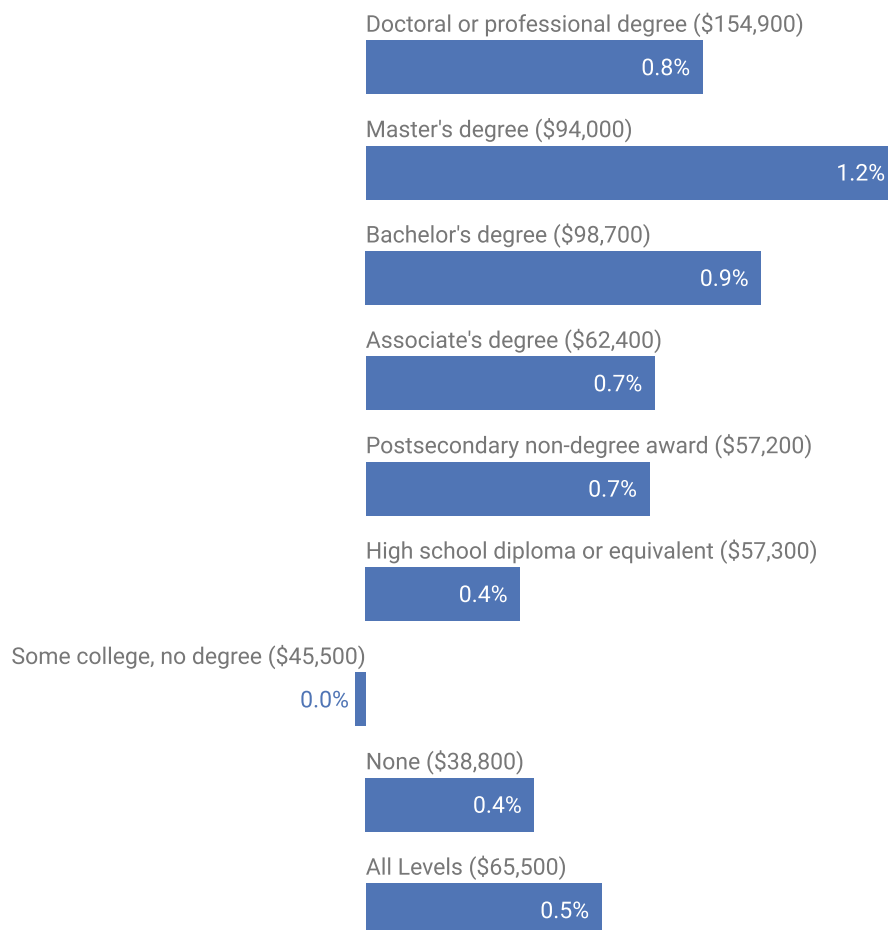


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2025Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is projected to grow 0.5% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.8% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 0.9% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.7% per year.

## Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

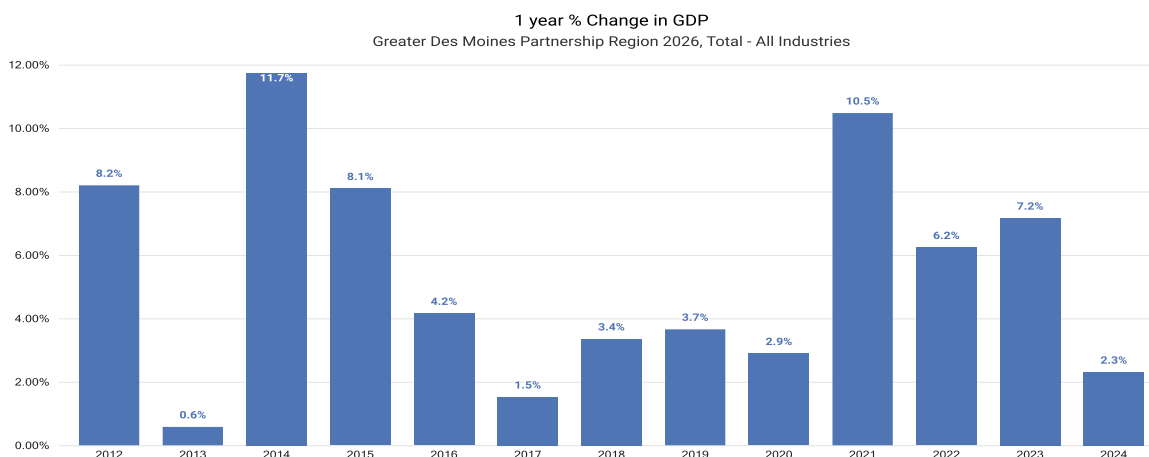


Source: JobsEQ®  
Data as of 2025Q3

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2025Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2024, nominal GDP in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 expanded 2.3%. This follows growth of 7.2% in 2023. As of 2024, total GDP in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 was \$87,448,192,000.

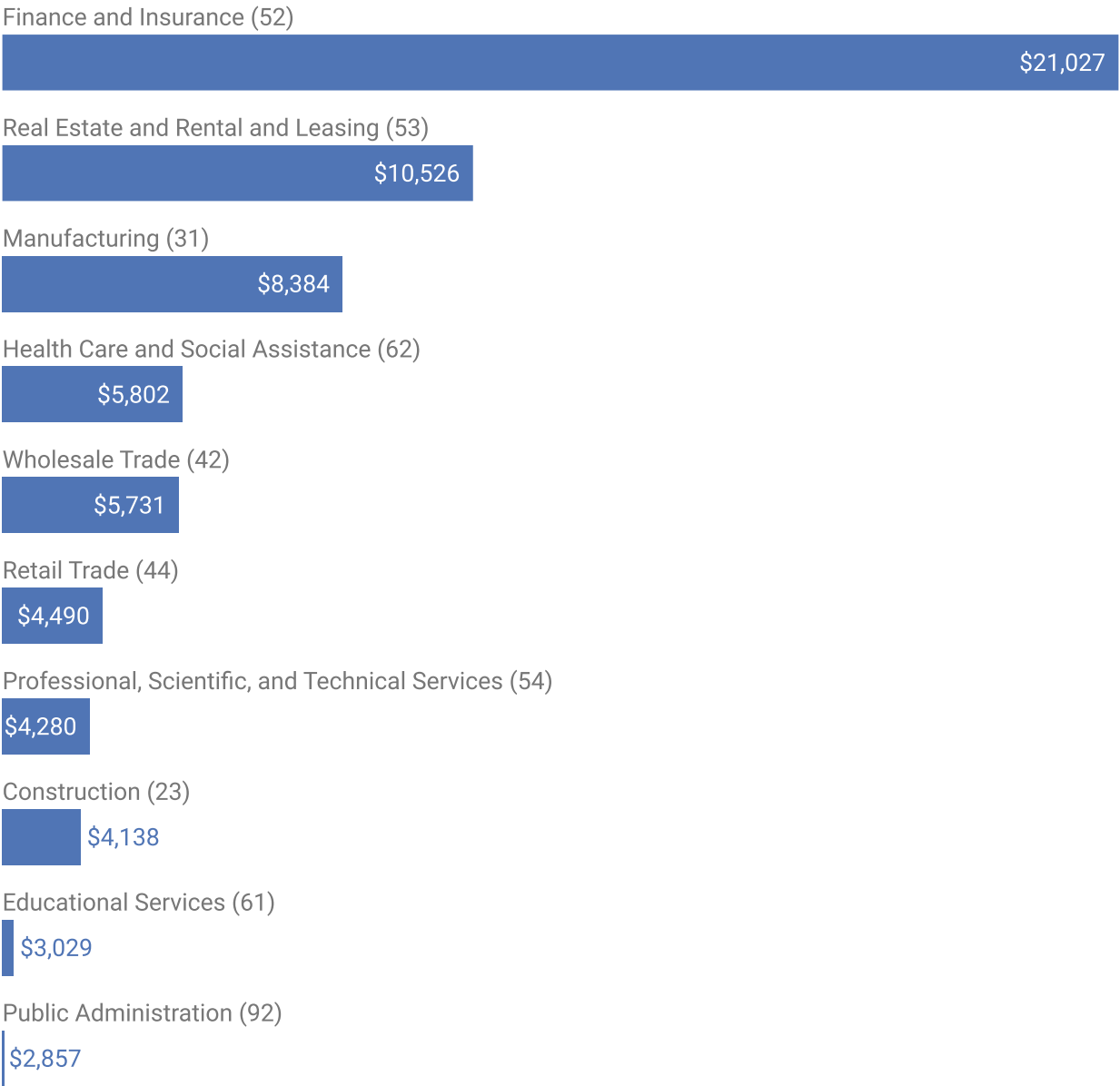


Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2024.

Of the sectors in the Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026, Finance and Insurance contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2024, \$21,026,504,000. The next-largest contributions came from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$10,526,162,000); Manufacturing (\$8,384,215,000); and Health Care and Social Assistance (\$5,802,475,000).

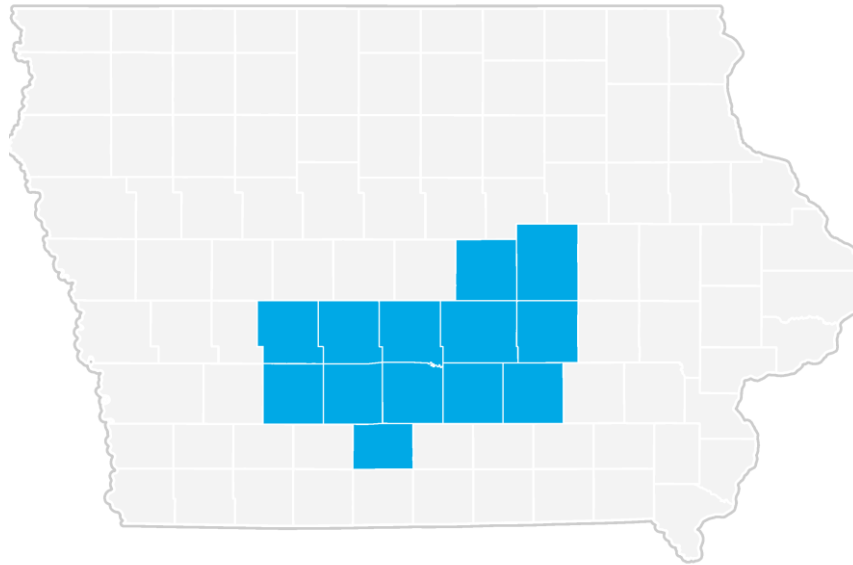
# GDP (in \$ millions)

## Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026, 2024



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2024.

# Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 Regional Map





# Region Definition

**Greater Des Moines Partnership Region 2026 is defined as the following counties:**

Adair County, Iowa	Marion County, Iowa
Clarke County, Iowa	Marshall County, Iowa
Dallas County, Iowa	Polk County, Iowa
Guthrie County, Iowa	Poweshiek County, Iowa
Jasper County, Iowa	Tama County, Iowa
Madison County, Iowa	Warren County, Iowa
Mahaska County, Iowa	

# FAQ

## What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

## What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

## What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

## What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

## What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

## What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

## About This Report

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